Kitimat Stores Ask Rent Talks

KITIMAT (CP)—Merchants in this company town Thursday suggested a round-table conference with the Aluminum Company of Canada to discuss the subject of store rents.

The suggestion came following the first public protest Wednesday against what some merchants have called "progress-killing rents" imposed by the company.

The protest came from district Councillor Lionel Houle, owner of a now-empty furniture shop.

G. W. Whitehead, manager of Alcan's property department here, said Thursday his company had seized the contents of Family Furniture Ltd. "as provided by the laws of British Columbia."

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And according to the 69th Annual Report, a lot of other records were broken at The Excelsior Life last year.

Benefits to policyholders totalled $11,780,903, including $4,087,371 paid to policyholders themselves; $1,937,281 paid to beneficiaries through death claims and $5,786,251 added to policy and dividend reserves to cover the increased insurance in force.

For continued protection of its policyholders the Company now holds over 100 million dollars in assets:-$35,933,409 in first mortgages on real estate; $49,907,469 in bonds and debentures; $5,240,546 in preferred and common stocks; $10,648,686 in other assets, including policy loans and company buildings.

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'Publicity or Something Else'

Smith Motive Queried

Parking Revenue Parcelled

DONALD SMITH, MLA

ALD. M. H. MOONEY

Motive and action of former alderman J. Donald Smith, MLA, in challenging Victoria's downtown parking and improvement bylaw were questioned yesterday in city council.

"I think Mr. Smith is looking for publicity or something else," said Ald. M. H. Mooney. "I can't figure out what's in his mind."

"It's unfortunate that our MLA in his wis-in his-in, uh, has misrepresented our intentions and what we actually are going to do," said Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Council took these actions on the parking and improvement plan:-

It gave preliminary approval to a bylaw amendment providing that all revenue from parking meters and facilities must go first to principal and interest payments on the parking-facility loan, then the balance into general revenue, any deficiency in the loan payments to be made up by a property tax.

(The bylaw before amendment provided only for property taxation.)

It gave preliminary approval to a bylaw providing for an off-street parking facility reserve fund, into which all parking revenues (except fines) must be paid.

From this fund to the extent of the money available would be paid, first the principal and interest on the parking loan; second the costs of operating the meters and facilities, and third the equivalent of the net profit on meters last year, $106,650, which would go into general revenue.

Balance remaining would be retained in the reserve fund for parking facility development.

It decided to ask for legislation to make this second bylaw binding upon future councils.

SMITH REQUEST

It decided, in response to Mr. Smith's request for a check on voting on the parking bylaw in December, to provide him with the returning officer's official figure.

That wasn't quite what Mr. Smith sought.

He asked that a count be made, using the lists from the polls, of the property-owners who had voted; the numbers recorded as for and against, and the number of ballots ruled invalid.

City clerk and returning officer M. F. Hunter said Mr. Smith was trying to show that persons not qualified to vote had voted on the bylaw. He said he had pointed out to Mr. Smith that all material used in the voting was now legally dead.

"It's been legally settled, why should it be continually brought up?" asked Ald. Edgelow. "If Mr. Smith is so interested, why didn't he stay around? He knew the bylaw was being put."

It seemed to him, he said, "that Smith has tried to embarrass city council as much as he can, and now he's trying to embarrass the city clerk."

Council then decided to send Mr. Smith a copy of the official figures.

"The only thing bothering me," said Ald. Mooney, "I don't want people to think we are covering up anything, because we are not."

In earlier discussion, Aldermen Mooney and Edgelow both denied heatedly the parking plan had been "pushed on" the people as claimed by Mr. Smith.

The claim that the additional parking provided in the new facility would cost $8,000 a space, Ald. Edgelow said, was "absolutely ridiculous." And council had explained to the people that the parking facility and malls were the start of a whole program of downtown improvement and revitalization — the parking facility was just one phase.

New Law To Allow Lounges

REGINA (CP)—Legislation designed to curb drunkenness and illegal consumption of liquor is expected during this year's session of the Saskatchewan legislature, which opened yesterday.

The throne speech, read by Lieutenant-Governor Frank L. Bastedo, said laws will be introduced to implement some of the recommendations of a committee studying liquor outlets, which made its report last summer.

The report called for mixed drinking and new types of liquor outlets, most of which would function in conjunction with the sale of food. The new outlets, subject to local option, would include beverage rooms, hotel and restaurant dining rooms and restaurant cocktail rooms associated with dining rooms.

Put Hospitals Inside Mountains?

Richard Newton, who comes from the mountainous East Kootenay constituency of Columbia, told the legislature Thursday that the mountains could be a life-saver in time of war.

Build hospitals and factories inside them, the Social Credit member suggested, and the province could carry on as if nothing had happened.

The Russians, he said, had just such a development in the mountains outside Moscow.

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Council Briefs

Ship Honors Her City

Lt.-Cmdr. Walter Blandy, commanding officer of HMCS Beacon Hill, yesterday presented a copy of the frigate's badge to the city of Victoria.

The ship was "adopted" by the city in the Second World War and her name was chosen in honor of Victoria.

Jack Shrimpton was congratulated by Acting Mayor Arthur Dowell at the opening of the city council meeting on his appointment as director of the Victoria Girls' Drill Team.

He succeeds the late Capt. Norman Foster.

★ ★ ★

Former alderman J. Donald Smith, MLA, asked for council's support for his suggestion in the legislature that improvements in old houses should be made tax-exempt.

But Ald. Austin Curtis said the question should be considered by the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and Ald. D. J. Proudfoot said council couldn't do anything at this time but suggest to Mr. Smith that he try to have a bill given first reading in the house.

★ ★ ★

Reeve C. A. P. Murison of North Cowichan, president of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, will speak to the Victoria Kiwanis Club Tuesday on the municipalities' proposal for a new division of responsibilities and costs among governments, Ald. Curtis told council.

★ ★ ★

Council received and filed a letter from the Victoria Labor Council asking that city contracts be awarded exclusively to firms employing union labor.

★ ★ ★

Request of the Greater Victoria Parent-Teacher Council for a bylaw prohibiting sale of spring-operated BB guns to children under 14, or their use in public places, was referred to the city solicitor for a report.

Council received several letters from members of the newly-formed League Against Inflation, calling on the aldermen to fight inflation, too. The letters were received and filed.

★ ★ ★

Request of the Optimist Club for permission to sell Easter baskets from door to door was unanimously rejected—unless trades licences are taken out at $60 per basket seller. Council rejected a similar request last year, after merchants complained of unfair competition.

★ ★ ★

Ald. Elmer McEwen questioned the advisability of the city doing its business always with the same bank, the Bank of Montreal.

City comptroller Dennis Young said the city had dealt with the Bank of Montreal and its predecessors, the Bank of British Columbia, since incorporation, and assured Ald. McEwen that two studies in recent years had shown that dealing with one bank was in the city's best interests.

★ ★ ★

Council passed a resolution asking the fire wardens to consider the feasibility of using the old firehall on Yates as a public market, and other alternatives.

But the fire wardens' chairman, Ald. Curtis, said the resolution wasn't necessary—"We have been giving it a great deal of thought, and some recommendation will be coming forward."

Minnesota became the 32nd state in the Union during 1858.

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Six-cylinder. Grey and white, air conditioner, automatic.
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SAVE $425
'59 Meteor "300" Fordor
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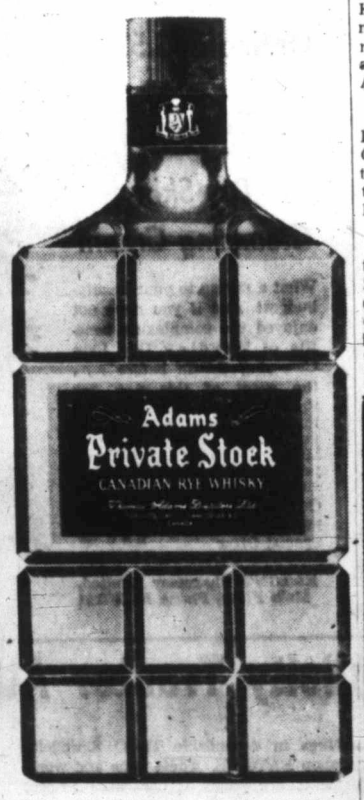

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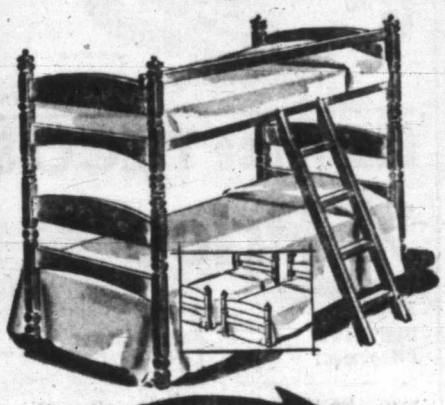

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